

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5, 13, and 21, and amend claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 17, 19, and 24 as follows:

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1. (AMENDED) A method of updating parity data in a redundant array of independent disk (RAID) clustered environment comprising:
    - (a) locking parity data, without communicating with other nodes, for data managed in SCSI (small computer systems interface) disks in a RAID clustered system, wherein the locking prevents other nodes from modifying the parity data;
    - (b) reading the parity data;
    - (c) generating new parity data by exclusive oring data from a first node and a second node;
    - (d) writing the parity data to a SCSI disk in the RAID clustered system; and
    - (e) unlocking the parity data, wherein the writing and unlocking steps are combined.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the locking comprises issuing a RESERVE command.

3. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein the unlocking comprises issuing a RELEASE command.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the locking and reading steps are combined.

5. (CANCELED)

6. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the RAID clustered system is RAID-4.

7. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the RAID clustered system is RAID-5.

8. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein the RAID clustered system is RAID-6.

ad Sub B2 } 9. (AMENDED) An apparatus for updating parity data in a redundant array of independent disk (RAID) clustered environment comprising:

- (a) a plurality of SCSI (small computer systems interface) storage devices organized in a RAID clustered system;
- (b) data stored in the plurality of SCSI storage devices;
- (c) a first node, operatively coupled to the plurality of SCSI storage devices, that manages storage and retrieval of the data in the plurality of SCSI storage devices, wherein the first node is configured to:
  - (i) lock parity data without communicating with other nodes, wherein the lock prevents other nodes from modifying the parity data;
  - (ii) read the parity data;
  - (iii) generate new parity data by exclusive oring data from two nodes;
  - (iv) write the parity data to a SCSI disk in the RAID clustered system; and
  - (v) unlock the parity data, wherein logic for writing and unlocking are combined.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first node locks the parity data by issuing a RESERVE command.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first node unlocks the parity data by issuing a RELEASE command.

as 12. (AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first node is further configured to combine logic for locking and reading.

13. (CANCELED)

a 14. (AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the RAID clustered system is RAID-4.

15. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the RAID clustered system is RAID-5.

16. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the RAID clustered system is RAID-6.

Sub B3 17. (AMENDED) An article of manufacture, embodying logic to perform method steps of updating parity data in a redundant array of independent disk (RAID) clustered environment, the method steps comprising the steps of:

- a 18. (a) locking parity data without communicating with other nodes, wherein the locking prevents other nodes from modifying the parity data;
- (b) reading the parity data;
- (c) generating new parity data by exclusive oring data from two nodes;

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a7 (d) writing the parity data to a SCSI (small computer systems interface) disk in the RAID clustered system; and

(e) unlocking the parity data, wherein the writing and unlocking steps are combined.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the locking comprises issuing a RESERVE command.

a8 19. (AMENDED) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the unlocking comprises issuing a RELEASE command.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the locking and reading steps are combined.

21. (CANCELED)

22. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the RAID clustered system is RAID-4.

23. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the RAID clustered system is RAID-5.

a9 24. (AMENDED) The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the RAID clustered system is RAID-6.